

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (D-GA02) announced today that the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Act. The legislation authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to study the suitability and feasibility of designating as a National Heritage Area eleven Georgia and seven Alabama counties known as the Chattahoochee Trace. Such a designation would make the region eligible to receive funding for publications and marketing for tourism, historic preservation, environmental education, outdoor recreation and small business development.

“The Chattahoochee Trace region has been touched by nearly every era in early American history and has served as one of the South’s most important transportation routes, been an engine for commerce, and is a vital natural and recreational resource.” Bishop said. “Through the preservation and study of the area’s historical and recreational resources, it will create an engine for future economic growth.”

The measure was included in the Senate amendments to H.R. 146, the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, which the House passed by a vote of 285 to 140. In the 110th Congress, Congressman Bishop was the lead Democratic co-sponsor of the Chattahoochee Trace National Heritage Corridor Act, along with Representative Jim Marshall (D-GA08), Representative Mike Rogers (R-AL03), and then-Representative Terry Everett (R-AL02).

“Once completed, the study will clearly show that the Chattahoochee Trace region meets the National Heritage Area criteria as set forth by the National Park Service,” Doug Purcell, Executive Director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, said. “The actual National Heritage Area designation will, over time, be a positive economic force for change in the region and will be a major factor in improving the quality of life for many thousands of people who live along the lower Chattahoochee River in Alabama and Georgia.”